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Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* E/2004/100 and Corr.1 and 2.

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Seminar Latin America – Africa: Promoting the eradication of poverty in least developed countries.

The Legião da Boa Vontade (Legion of Good Will - LGW), a Brazilian Organization with general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), NGO Section, held the "Seminar Latin America – Africa: Eradicating Poverty in least developed countries", on March 10-11, 2004, at the World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity, the ParlaMundi of the LGW, in Brasilia, capital of Brazil.

The event was divided in two parts. The first part was made up of panels, which approached the themes: "Eradication of poverty and Africa's reality" and "Peace Culture and social development", with an audience of 150 participants during the speeches of the Ambassador of Mozambique, Mr. Amadeu Samuel; Ms. Leslie Wright, board member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO); representatives of authorities of the Brazilian government, Mozambique and Cape Verde; besides registering the presence of representatives of various educational and research centers.

The workshop was held on the second part of the event, with the participation of 37 NGOs of different fields of services and origins, having representation of other countries in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking African countries. The activities were distributed in four sub-groups, providing a detailed actual panorama on each subject:

I. Eradication of poverty and hunger and alternatives for creating new jobs and income

Considering the sad information acquired about the African countries, the report presented at this Seminar, makes urgent and necessary to affirm that poverty and hunger are associated to educational and cultural questions and to the spoliation of natural resources by the harmful intervention of powerful world Economies.

The community development of the African local populations, based on the Human Being's worth and his or hers territorial and cultural identity, is more important and is the priority for the market formation and creation of jobs based on global economic models.

The inadequate use of natural resources is also pointed out as one of the main causes of extreme poverty.

This situation is made worse by the low self-esteem of the population, by the lack of integration between the tribes and ethnic groups, by the existence of non-democratic regimes, which contribute to the spoiling of the social principles, promoting cultural alienation and the emotional annihilation of the peoples. This is also the result of a long term colonialism and extended civil wars.

Recommendations

Any proposal presented should be taken into consideration that to reach Portuguese-speaking African countries, it will be necessary:

- To adequate the language and methodology according to the reality of each community, for the contribution of the educational process and the development of the citizen's potentialities.

- To build a diagnosis and informative planning of the reality and local interests, through groups of multi-professionals, considering tribal customs, cultural and geographic aspects and the level of the community's development.

1) Community development

- Actions of identification, mobilization and development of the potentialities of the community, based on the local reality.

- Social-economical organization and development: formation of cooperatives, associative networks, family mutirao (cooperative self-help housing), consortium, development of partnerships and incentive programs of support for very small and micro-enterprises, community development agency for the mobilization and administration of resources; neutral currency; community vegetable gardens; and fruitful and ornamental tree nursery.

2) Nature conservation and sustainable development

- To develop a set of policies and programs (national, regional and tribal) for the formulation of a system of environmental information of the African continent (located at UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya), which gives support and basis for the decision-making body and technical and scientific sustainability to the projects and productive and agricultural systems.

- To make good use of water based on rational systems, re-utilization and treatment of polluted water.

- To make good use of development programs, re-using and recycling materials and disposed goods by means of a selective collection program and solidary economy workshops with the leading role of the recyclers, organized in cooperatives, and as an environmental educator for hygiene and responsible consumption.

- To create national programs of environmental education and their implementation in formal and non-formal actions.

3) School Education Development

- To establish the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, the LGW's educational proposal, based on the affirmation of ethic, moral, cultural and religious values, such as: Nature veneration; gender equity; respect towards senior citizens, children, women, ideas; fight against discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia.

- To create the Bolsa-escola* program with public and private partners, in the original models.

- To establish volunteerism programs in the schools.

- To establish community and school libraries; reading clubs; science, math and computer laboratories; among others.

- Introduction to music, sports, recreation, environmental education, hygiene and health notions, Solidarity, besides cultural activities in the school curricula.

- To establish community schools with the good use of local resources, tents, dense trees, among others.

- To set up story tellers at the communities, to preserve the oral tradition and local culture.

- To establish continuing formation of teachers for the introduction of new techniques and for the collective work in the schools, with the exchange of existing experiences in the different communities.

- To create itinerant libraries and laboratories.

4) Sharing of appropriate technology

- To develop methods, techniques, processes and procedures that make feasible to the local population and African institutions the access to appropriate technologies to its community development (according to OECD/1980 – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of the UN).

- We recommend the Brazilian methodology used by the non-governmental organizations all over the country, approved by the International Labor Organization (ILO), called Local Integrated Sustainable and Solidary Development (Delis – Desenvolvimento Local Integrado Sustentável e Solidário).

5) Global Governance

A new world order is necessary and urgent, in which many and different multilateral organisms of international cooperation should be redirected to the true cooperative and fraternal spirit among the peoples and nations of the Earth.

Global Governmental Issues

Growth of UN's Security Council.

1) To create a Global Council of the Civil Society in the UN.

2) To establish the TOBIN tax on the fight against world poverty.

3) To create a World Fund to Fight against Hunger (as proposed by the President of the Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, at the UN).

4) The poor countries' debts forgiven by the MIF (Monetary International Fund).

5) To create mechanisms of restraint and penalization against illegal money laundry.

All of these items are fundamental to arise a new world order.

II. Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women

Considering that poverty affects mainly women, we observe that inequality of gender comes from the lack of recognition of the capacity of women in developing, with liberty, their role in all sectors of society.

Proposals

- To implement actions of gender integration in public, private, and, mainly, African community life, where the woman better interacts and where her social role is more relevant and functional, rescuing her female principles of family, cultural, environment and spiritual cares.

- To develop public policies to attend woman's whole development, that is, body-mind-Spirit (Education, Health, Nourishment, Work and Spirituality).

- To foster women's equality and participation in all social segments and, mainly, in the labor market, seeking the exercise of citizenship.

- To implement emergency and preventive actions to contemplate decision on family planning, on mother-baby health, on support to victims of violence and on the fight against trafficking of women, rescuing dignity and ethical, moral and spiritual values.

- To qualify women as agents on conflict prevention and on Human Being development as a whole, guaranteeing their participation in World Peace settlement.

III. Fight against HIV/AIDS

Considering that Africa's desert area, which recently faced conflicts for freedom and for independency, is seen as a region with the most cases of the AIDS pandemic, we observe that the countries which make part of this region face, now, a second war, this time a silent war. The population's lack of instruction on how to prevent the disease has become the most dangerous enemy to be defeated.

Proposals

- Governments and International Communities:

- To transfer Brazilian technology to Portuguese-speaking African countries for self-manufactured medicine production. The world intervention should consider the importance of the break of patents, to make practical the treatment's accessibility to the population.

- To qualify managers who work in the offices that deal with public policies of prevention, transforming them in multiplying agents in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

- To foster prevention policies with mass campaigns, which, besides the information, communicate respect values to life, using the radio, the TV, the Internet and all accessible means to the population, besides making periodic evaluations of these campaigns.

- To elaborate policies with inter-Ministry integration (Ministries of Health and Education, for example), in partnership with the community, NGOs and Universities.

Third Sector:

- To join International and local Third Sector, for the knowledge and experience interchange. The international NGOs need to adjust the social projects to the country's reality, in partnership with the local NGOs.

- To insert the Universities in the plans of the fight against HIV/AIDS, with implantation of courses about life and health quality, following the example of the already existing partnerships between the Ministries Education of Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and others.

Market:

- To move the companies to finance the projects of social responsibility, and publish those who work for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

- To foster in the companies prevention campaigns for their employees, in partnership with the NGOs, the Universities and the Civil Society.

IV. Resources mobilization and global partnerships for development

It is considered that, from the most critical aspects for resource mobilization, an inhibiting factor for the accomplishment of partnerships is the ignorance of the community's activists, that is, the natural resources available, the social actor's capabilities, as well as the existing technology that could contribute for the development of the communities, respecting their cultural characteristics.

Proposals

Governments and International Communities:

- To legitimate all civil society's initiatives which purpose aims local development.

- To offer basic infra-structure to make possible the communication between the many social actors involved in the accomplishment of partnerships and in resource mobilization.

Third Sector:

- To establish communication and information networks, aiming at the register of funds and resources, as well as possible and executable projects of replication.

- To articulate through the creation of an organizing/facilitator committee, for the national construction of a Solidarity network, formed by various NGOs, in different stages of development.

- To identify the community's activists, mapping the available natural resources, the capabilities of the social actors, the available technology, seeking the effective mobilization of these resources and, consequently, the accomplishment of global partnerships.

- To evaluate and identify the best global technological practices, create partnerships for development, prioritize the creation of solidary economy businesses considering regional contexts.

Companies:

- To qualify local development agents for the intervention of the development process, articulating networks, elaborating planning for projects and actions.

- To sensitize social community sustainable investment, as a way of social responsibility, gathering values to business and bringing benefits to the local community.

It is relevant to mention that, during the seminar, it was taken into consideration the opportunity to continue discussion and relationship in a permanent forum that motivates the improvement and the cooperative actions for the development of issues related to this work. It was emphasized that mobilizing agents and private resources for the betterment of public goods represent mature citizenship and growth of democracy. The work in network express the accomplishing power so indispensable to promote worldwide quality of life through sustainable development, guaranteeing ecological equilibrium and world peace.

*The Bolsa Escola is a National Program of Minimum Income linked to Education and its objective is to stimulate school instruction, reaching and showing the families the necessity of taking children to school. The mother receives a certain amount, corresponding to each child that has a frequent attendance at school. This program of the Brazilian Government has its focus on Elementary School students.